

**Michigan Department of Transportation**  
**Public Hearing Notice**  
**Environmental Assessment and Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation for**  
**Proposed Interchange Improvements to I-196**  
**at Chicago Drive (Baldwin Street)**  
**in Georgetown Charter Township and the City of Grandville**  
**Ottawa and Kent Counties, Michigan**

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is conducting a public hearing on the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Programmatic 4(f) Evaluation for proposed interchange improvements to I-196 at Chicago Drive (Baldwin Street) in Georgetown Charter Township and the city of Grandville, Ottawa and Kent counties, Michigan. This hearing is being held in accordance with federal and state public involvement/public hearings procedures.

The public hearing will be held at the Georgetown Charter Township Offices, 1515 Baldwin St., Jenison, a handicapped accessible facility. To facilitate participation for those in the project area, the public hearing will take place continuously from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2006.

This EA contains a Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation for the proposed improvements because of the impact to a non-motorized trail and parking area. Section 4(f) of the federal Department of Transportation Act requires that an evaluation be prepared when the proposed action may have an adverse effect on a property eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or may impact publicly owned land from a park, recreation area, or wildlife/waterfowl refuge of national, state or local significance.

This EA describes various improvements to the interchange to enhance mobility along I-196 between eastern Ottawa County and the Grand Rapids metropolitan area. This will be accomplished by developing a safe and efficient transportation improvement that addresses traffic safety, operational concerns and access issues. The Preferred Alternative includes:

- Construct two additional ramps, westbound off and eastbound on, connecting I-196 directly with Baldwin Street just north of Chicago Drive;
- Add a new weave/merge lane along eastbound I-196; and
- Replace two freeway mainline bridges to facilitate locating the new eastbound entrance ramp under I-196 adjacent to the CSX rail line.

The project would provide access from the freeway to the Jenison area without the current at-grade crossing of the CSX rail line, which would reduce travel restrictions and delays, improve emergency service access, and enhance freeway traffic flow and safety. It also would provide additional capacity to address projected traffic growth in the area.

The hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to comment for the record on the proposed improvements as well as a no-build alternative. Brochures summarizing the EA and Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation, and a review copy of the EA document and technical reports, are available at:

- Georgetown Township Offices, 1515 Baldwin St., Jenison
- Georgetown Charter Township Library, 1525 Baldwin St., Jenison
- Grandville City Clerk, 3195 Wilson Ave., SW, Grandville
- Grandville Branch Kent District Library, 4055 Maple St., SW, Grandville
- Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, 40 Pearl St., N.W. Suite 410, Grand Rapids
- MDOT Grand Rapids Transportation Service Center, 1420 Front Avenue, N.W., Grand Rapids
- MDOT Bureau of Transportation Planning, 425 Ottawa St., Lansing

The document also may be viewed on the Internet at [www.michigan.gov/mdotstudies](http://www.michigan.gov/mdotstudies).

The public hearing will be conducted using an "open forum" style to allow the public to gather information on the project on a one-to-one basis with MDOT staff. Participants may stop by anytime during the scheduled hours to view displays and talk with MDOT study team members regarding environmental, engineering, traffic, real estate, and other issues.

A court reporter will be available for those persons who would like to make a statement or comment about the project and have it included in the transcript of this public hearing. Citizens also can fill out a comment form and deposit it into the comment boxes at the public hearing site.

**Comments also can be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to: Robert H. Parsons, Public Hearings Officer, Bureau of Transportation Planning, Michigan Department of Transportation. P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909; Fax: (517) 373-9255; or email:**

**parsonsb@michigan.gov.** Comments must be e-mailed or postmarked on or before **January 20, 2006**, to be included in the transcript of the hearing. For more information on this public hearing, or to find out more about the project, write to the above address or call (517) 373-9534.

With an advance notice of seven days, MDOT can make most of the materials for this hearing available in alternative formats such as large print or audiotape, and can make accommodations for sign language interpretation and/or assisted listening devices. Please call (517) 373-9534 to request accommodations.